

A NEW SPECIES OF *WEDELIA* FROM ECUADOR (HELIANTHEAE:  
ASTERACEAE)

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ABSTRACT

*Wedelia loxensis* is described as a new species.

KEY WORDS: Asteraceae, Heliantheae, *Wedelia loxensis*, Ecuador

The following new species has been discovered during preparation of the treatment of the Heliantheae for the Flora of Ecuador. The material has been held for some time with the hope of finding more collections, but as yet no additional specimens have been seen, and validation is needed. The description is as follows.

*Wedelia loxensis* H. Rob., *spec. nov.* TYPE: ECUADOR. Loja, between Celica and El Empalme on the Catacocha-Macará road, 1-2 km above El Empalme, 800-1000 m, 11 Apr 1980, *Harling & Andersson 18174* (HOLOTYPE: US; Isotype: GB).

Plantae suffrutescentes erectae vel procumbentes flexuosae ca. 0.4 m altae; caules flavo-virides vel rubrotincti teretes striati hispidi, pilis rigidis; internodi basilares breves, distales ad 11 cm longi. Folia plerumque opposita sessilia; laminae tenuiter herbaceae oblongo-ovatae vel obovatae plerumque 3-6 cm longae, 2.5-3.0 cm latae, base rotundatae, margine praeter basam minute serrulatae, apice breviter acutae, supra strigillosae pauce glandulo-punctatae subtus leniter pallidiores distincte glandulo-punctatae; nervis secundariis pinnatis ad angula ca. 45° patentibus. Inflorescentiae plerumque trifidae in pedunculis terminales et in ramis aut pedunculis binis lateralibus proliferatae, pedunculis elongatis 10-14 cm longis albo-puberulis et minute contorte pilosulis et pauce minute glandulo-punctatis. Capitula late campanulata vel hemisphaerica 1.0-1.3 cm alta; involucria 1.7-2.0 cm lata, bracteis exterioribus ca. 8 herbaceis ellipticis, plerumque 8-12 mm longis, 3-4 mm latis, interne et externe strigillosis pauce glandulo-punctatis, bracteis interioribus ca. 12

scariosis flavescens oblongo-ellipticis, ca. 6 mm longis, 1.5 mm latis, apiculatis, externe sparse pilosis margine superne denticulatis et ciliatis; paleae ad bracteas interiores similes flavescens anguste oblanceolatae ca. 7 mm longae in costis pilosulae, laminis a mediis ca. 0.6 mm latis. Flores radii ca. 12 feminei; corollae flavae, tubis ca. 1.5 mm longis pilosulus, limbis anguste oblongis, ca. 13 mm longis, 2.5 mm latis, apice breviter bilobatis subtus glandulo-punctatis. Flores disci 35-45; corollae flavae ca. 5.5 mm longae, tubis ca. 1.5 mm longis glabris, faucibus ca. 3 mm longis fere glabris, lobis ca. 0.7 mm longis, 0.5 mm latis, extus puberulis et glandulo-punctatis; thecae antherarum 2 mm longae; appendices apicales pallidae extus pauce glanduliferae. Cypselae (submaturae) ca. 2.5 mm longae, puberulae in vel prope rostris glandulo-punctatae, rostris ca. 0.4 mm longis; pappus minime coroniformis margine glanduliferis et leniter lobatis.

*Wedelia loxensis* is known only from the type collection. It was collected in a deciduous-forest at 800-1000 m elevation in western Loja, Ecuador. It is easily distinguished from other Andean species with fertile rays by its sessile leaves with ascending, pinnate venation.